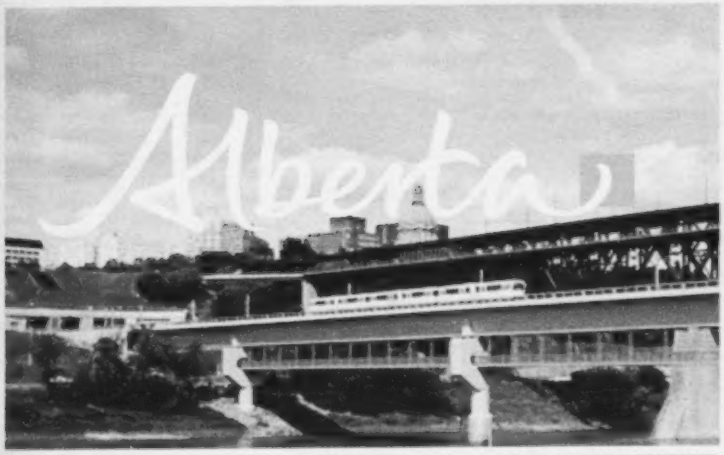
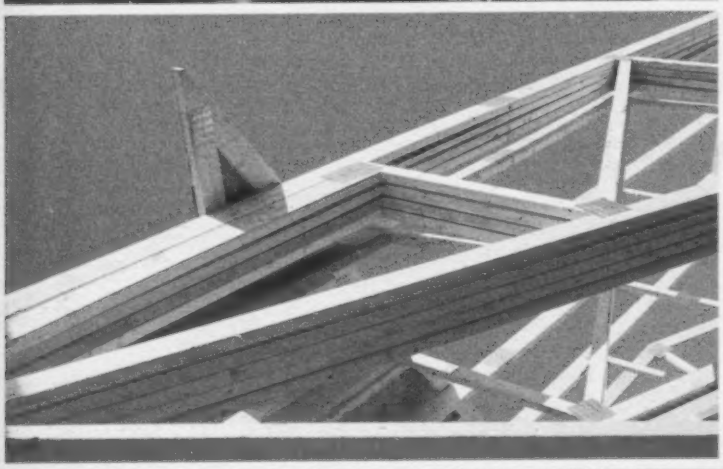




INDUSTRY PROFILES

Construction Industry

July 2011

Government of Alberta
Employment and Immigration

Overview:

The Construction industry[1] in Alberta includes establishments that:

- construct, repair or renovate residential buildings (i.e. houses, apartment buildings, condominiums);
- construct, repair or renovate business and commercial buildings (i.e. office towers, shops, malls);
- construct, repair or renovate industrial buildings (i.e. oil refineries, petrochemical plants, power plants);
- perform engineering works (i.e. highways, bridges, pipelines); and
- subdivide and develop land.

Section A: Business Environment
1. 2010 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates
2. Industry Growth
3. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry
Section B: Human Resources Profile
1. Occupational Information
2. Demographics: Age and Gender
3. Wages
Section C: Additional Information
Links to Selected Industry Associations

[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) major group 23

Section A: Business Environment

1. 2010 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates:

	Alberta	Construction Industry
Number of employed	2,016,600	206,500
Percent employed in the industry		10.2%
Number of unemployed	140,700	17,300
Unemployment rate	6.5%	7.7%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2010, Statistics Canada

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics[2] or Statistics Canada[3] websites.

2. Industry Growth:

- Employment in the Construction industry is expected to grow by 2.2% annually from 2010 to 2013.

For more information, see the *Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2009 – 2013, Industry Employment Outlook*[4] online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)[5] website's industry descriptions.

[2] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/67.html
[3] See http://www.statcan.gc.ca
[4] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/documents/LMI/LMI-LMF_2009-13_cops.pdf
[5] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Construction industry accounted for 7.9% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2010 compared to 7.3% in 2000. This industry was the third largest employer and its share of Alberta's total employment rose from 7.9% in 2000 to 10.2% in 2010.

Employment in 2010 was 5.4% higher than its level in 2009. Over the last ten years, employment increased from 125,700 people in 2000 to 206,500 people in 2010.

The Construction Sector Council's (CSC) forecast report, *Construction Looking Forward – An Assessment of Construction Labour Markets from 2011 to 2019 for Alberta*, estimates that 23,700 new jobs will be created in the industry during the forecast period.

The outlook for investment in Alberta is an important driver of the demand for construction trades. The CSC current outlook can be seen in the table below.

Investment Expenditures, Alberta, 2010-2019						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015-2019*
Residential Investment (includes new housing and renovations)						
2002 $Millions	7,987	8,743	9,179	10,263	10,499	9,837
% Change	20.3	9.5	5.0	11.8	2.3	-1.1
Non-residential Investment (includes engineering construction, building construction, industrial construction, commercial construction, institutional and government construction and machinery and equipment)						
2002 $Millions	21,812	23,013	22,585	22,620	22,366	26,971
% Change	20.1	5.5	-1.9	0.2	-1.1	3.8

Source: *Construction Looking Forward – An Assessment of Construction Labour Markets from 2011 to 2019 for Alberta*, Construction Sector Council
*Growth rates are averages for the period, while levels are 2019 values.

3. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry:

Establishment Size	Alberta Businesses		Construction Businesses	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	605,200	36.2%	68,100	46.1%
20 to 99 employees	565,800	33.8%	47,800	32.4%
100 to 500 employees	309,300	18.5%	19,900	13.5%
Over 500 employees	193,200	11.5%	11,800	8.0%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2010, Statistics Canada

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupational Information:

Some examples of occupations in the Construction industry include:

- bricklayer;
- carpenter;
- electrician;
- roofer; and
- steamfitter-pipefitter.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry as well as detailed information on educational and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles[6] website.

2. Demographics: Age and Gender:

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Construction industry is as follows:

- women employed: 25,700 people, or 12.4%
- men employed: 180,800 people, or 87.6%

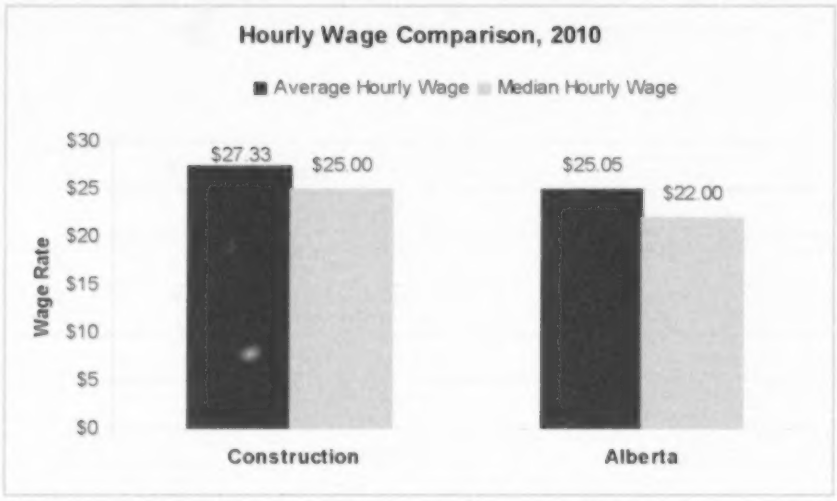
In Alberta, women accounted for 45.1% and men made up 54.9% of total employment.

Age Characteristics	Alberta Employees		Construction Employees	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	314,500	15.6%	34,500	16.7%
25-54 years	1,381,500	68.5%	145,600	70.5%
55 years and over	320,600	15.9%	26,400	12.8%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2010, Statistics Canada

[6] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

3. Wages:



Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2010, Statistics Canada
Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting Average	Overall Average	Top Average	
Welders and related machine operator	$ 45.02	$ 45.96	$ 50.03	$ 108,907
Electrician	$ 24.71	$ 30.81	$ 35.47	$ 65,207
Carpenter	$ 25.95	$ 28.84	$ 31.51	$ 63,295

Data Source: 2009 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For information on wages, refer to the WAGEinfo[7] website. For job descriptions, duties, required skills and education requirements for specific occupations in the Construction industry, visit the ALIS[8] website.

[7] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo
[8] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Section C: Additional Information

Links to Selected Industry Associations:

- Alberta Construction Association
  (http://albertaconstruction.net)
- Alberta Construction Safety Association
  (http://www.acsa-safety.org)
- Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association
  (http://www.arhca.ab.ca)
- Calgary Construction Association
  (http://www.cca.cc)
- Calgary Region Home Builders Association
  (http://www.crhba.com)
- Canadian Home Builders' Association - Alberta
  (http://chbaalberta.ca)
- Construction Owners Association of Alberta
  (http://www.coaa.ab.ca)
- Construction Sector Council
  (http://www.csc-ca.org)
- Edmonton Construction Association
  (http://www.edmca.com)
- Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta
  (http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)
- Merit Contractors Association
  (http://www.meritalberta.com)